



Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE
MARITIMES IN MID-SEPTEMBER, 1991

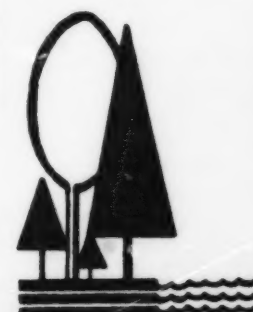
This, our fourth and final highlight report for the year, discusses forest pest conditions in the Maritimes in mid-September, 1991.

Hemlock looper defoliation has "popped up" in a few new areas in the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Severe defoliation has been found on Deer Island and in several small patches in southern Charlotte County, Miller Lake, Restigouche County, Mount Carleton, and in an area known locally as the Big South, the South Branch Nepisiguit River, Northumberland County, in New Brunswick. In eastern Nova Scotia, hemlock looper defoliation of balsam fir has been found in many isolated patches in coastal areas and on some islands from the Chezzetcook Inlet, Halifax County to Liscomb Island, Guysborough County. Aerial defoliation surveys for both provinces have recorded 2100 ha of severe defoliation by hemlock looper and an additional 1500 ha severely defoliated by hemlock looper and spruce budworm in New Brunswick and approximately 3500 ha at various levels of defoliation in Nova Scotia. Aerial surveys were conducted jointly with the N.B. Dept. of Natural Resources and Energy (DNRE) and the N.S. Dept. of Lands and Forests, respectively.

Spruce budworm defoliation was aerially mapped by DNRE on 301,000 ha in New Brunswick and remains among the lowest in more than 20 years. The total area of defoliation is only slightly higher (1.5%) than that defoliated in 1990. Nearly all of the defoliation is in northern New Brunswick.

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Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region
P.O. Box 4000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5P7
P.O. Box 667, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E5
P.O. Box 190, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7K2



Dutch elm disease - A significant expansion occurred in the distribution of the disease in Prince Edward Island in 1991. With the discovery of an infected tree at Little Sands, east of the Wood Island Ferry Terminal towards Murray River in Kings County, the disease has now been found in all three counties of the province. There was also an expansion in Prince County where the disease was found for the first time on the outskirts of Summerside and at Wellington Centre. The disease intensified in previously infected areas, especially around O'Leary. There were no major changes in distribution in the other two provinces, but the disease has been taking its toll in several Nova Scotia towns and municipalities.

Variable oak leaf caterpillar, for the second year, has defoliated beech in scattered stands in southern York County, New Brunswick but, by the end of the first week in September, the overall defoliation was less than that reported in 1990. Trace defoliation, with but a few trees having higher levels of foliage loss, was typical for many of the stands defoliated last year. At Spednic Lake Provincial Park, York Co., where 75 ha of beech were completely defoliated in 1990, defoliation was light with many trees suffering moderate defoliation.

Gypsy moth pheromone trap collecting, moth counting, and tallying of results are just getting underway by many cooperators. Everyone is encouraged to return traps or information to FIDS in Fredericton as soon as possible to facilitate summarizing the catches for the regional perspective and the coordination of any further effort on behalf of the Gypsy Moth Coordinating Committee.

Birch leafminer has caused light and moderate browning by mining the leaves of white birch in areas that include the eastern half of Kings County and western Albert County, New Brunswick.

Fall webworm nests were common on hardwoods in eastern mainland Nova Scotia and in southern and eastern New Brunswick. Infestations in Nova Scotia were at levels similar to those in 1990 but in New Brunswick fall webworm nests were more common and widespread than last year.

J. Edward Hurley and L.P. Magasi
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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